

SPRINGTIME IN HISTORIC CHARLESTON

APRIL 2-6, 2017

SPONSORED BY BLITHEWOLD



Join us next spring as we journey to beautiful and historic Charleston, South Carolina, recently named the number one city in the US and Canada by *Travel & Leisure*. With its rich Colonial history and southern charm, Charleston provides a gorgeous backdrop for the many gardens, homes, and plantations we'll visit. Taking advantage of the city's 70th annual **Festival of Houses & Gardens**, we'll see not only intimate private gardens but also sublimely beautiful riverfront plantations and the country's finest museum of outdoor figurative sculpture.

This region is noted for its annual spring display of azaleas, magnolias, and dogwoods, and we'll be there at their absolute peak. We'll have several opportunities to sample some of Charleston's finest cuisine, while leaving time for exploring the city's unique shopping opportunities. Do consider joining your friends for what promises to be a very special excursion.

This tour was designed for Blithewold Members by **Interlude Tours** of Indianapolis, along with **Mark Zelonis of Cultural Excursions**. Mark is the former director of Blithewold, and was for 18 years the Deputy Director of Environmental & Historic Preservation at the Indianapolis Museum of Art. You'll also be accompanied by **Gail Read, Blithewold's Garden Manager**.

Mail Checks to: **Interlude Tours**
7816 N Chester Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46240
www.InterludeTours.com

Springtime in Historic Charleston Charleston, SC

Sunday - Thursday
April 2-6, 2017
5 days / 4 nights

Cost per person / Land Only
\$2,129 (D) / \$2,599 (S)

Deposit per person: \$350

Balance due: January 16, 2017

Travel Insurance Available

Call for reservations:
Interlude Tours
(317) 913-0387
JoAnn@InterludeTours.com

Your Tour Includes:

- Airport Transfers
- Charleston Transportation
- 4 nights accommodations
- Baggage handling
- 8 meals: 4 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners
- All taxes and gratuities including tour manager and driver
- Welcome Tour of Charleston
- Tour of Middleton Place Plantation
- Historic Drayton Hall Plantation House
- Brookgreen Gardens, a Sculpture Garden and Wildlife Preserve
- Tram Tour of Magnolia Plantation and Gardens
- Nathaniel Russell House Museum
- 70th Annual Festival of Historic Houses & Gardens Presented by Historic Charleston Foundation
- Sounds of Charleston Performance

Among our many stops are the following special attractions and events:

A personal **Welcome Tour** of Charleston, recounting the city's long and colorful history, and highlighting the its architectural legacy, including distinctive houses, churches, and public buildings.

Middleton Place Plantation, a National Historic Landmark and one of South Carolina's most enduring icons – a proud survivor of the American Revolution and Civil War. It features our country's oldest landscaped gardens with breathtaking views to the Ashley River. Enjoy interpretation of African-American life, and witness demonstrations of weaving, blacksmithing, pottery, and other trades practiced on the plantation.

Drayton Hall Plantation House– Built in the middle 18th century, it is one of the finest examples of Georgian-Palladian architecture, and now operated by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Never modernized with electricity, plumbing, or central heating, the main house is unfurnished, allowing visitors to focus on the beauty of the architectural details. Enjoy a special curator tour just for our group.

Brookgreen Gardens – A multi-faceted and glorious experience on the site of a former rice plantation. Founded in 1931 by Archer and Anna Hyatt Huntington, Brookgreen's gardens are among the most beautiful in the South, and named by *Trip Advisor* as one of the Top Ten Public Gardens in the US. They encompass the largest outdoor collection of figurative sculpture in North America (including many by Mrs. Huntington), all set amongst magnolias, dogwoods, and live oaks dripping with Spanish moss. We'll walk nature trails to discover some of the Lowcountry plant life, and cruise by boat on nearby creeks to view historic rice fields, and the resident alligators, osprey, and waterfowl.

Magnolia Plantation and Gardens – America's last large-scale Romantic-style garden was developed more than 300 years ago. A tram will escort us around fringes of the tranquil 500-acre landscape featuring camellias, azaleas, and native plants bordering the cypress and tupelo swamp.

Nathaniel Russell House Museum – Built for Bristol's native son and prodigious sea merchant, Nathaniel Russell, this National Historic Landmark is recognized as one of America's most important neoclassical buildings. It features a 3-story freestanding spiral staircase.

70th Annual Festival of Historic Houses & Gardens - Set amid the ambience of the city's Old & Historic District, this series of award-winning tours and educational events showcase Charleston's distinctive architecture, history, gardens and culture. The tours provide a rare opportunity for guests to go inside the private houses and gardens of some of America's most beautiful historic residences.

Sounds of Charleston - "The best night out in the City is this must-see performance of gospel, Gershwin, music of the Civil War, light classics, and jazz — all the elements of Charleston's rich musical stew" - *Frommers Travel Guide*.

Host Hotel - Renaissance Charleston Historic District Hotel

Cancellation policy: if insurance is not purchased, cancellation charges are 110 days and earlier: full refund; 109-77 days before departure: \$350; 76 and less days prior to departure: no refund.